

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. A method of constructing and displaying a representation of an object having ~~at least one property;~~a plurality of properties, the method comprising:

identifying at least ~~one~~a first property group ~~associated with the object which has been chosen~~including a first set of the plurality of properties and a second property group including a second set of the plurality of properties, the first and second sets being different from one another;

specifying to a representation engine the first property group to represent the object; ~~at least one property of the object belonging to each property group associated with the object;~~

~~identifying any other object that the object references within a property of an identified property group;~~

retrieving data corresponding to a property name and value for each of the properties belonging to the ~~at least one~~first property group; and

~~storing the retrieved data on a tangible computer storage medium; and~~

~~representing~~displaying on a user interface a representation of the object that includes a display of the first property group and not the second property group.~~by using the retrieved data to generate a user interface.~~

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of ~~representing the object further displaying~~ comprises visually ~~representing the object by displaying the retrieved data~~displaying the name and value for each property in the first property group.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of displaying ~~the retrieved data~~ further comprises displaying the names of properties belonging to the ~~at least one~~first property group adjacent values of those properties.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein displaying names of properties belonging to the ~~at least~~

~~one~~first property group further comprises displaying a name of ~~each~~first property group adjacent the names of the properties belonging to ~~that~~the first property group and adjacent the values of those properties.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the object has a parent object that has a specified property group wherein ~~representing displaying a representation of the object using the retrieved data further comprises~~ representing displaying the object using its own~~the first~~ property groups and the ~~ones of its~~specified property group of the parent object.

6. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:  
identifying any other object that the object references within a property of the first  
property group, the other object having a default property group wherein at least one object inheritance hierarchy exists between the object and the other identified objects, and wherein each property group is unique to a particular object inheritance hierarchy.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the object is a specialization of a second object, and wherein the object inherits the property groups associated with the second object.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein for each property group, properties belonging to the property group include at least one property of the object and one or more properties of only one other object.

9. (Canceled)

10. The method of claim 1, wherein ~~identifying the at least ones~~specifying the first property group associated with the object further comprises identifying the first property group as a default property group associated with the object.

11. A method of constructing a representations of an objects ~~each having at least one property~~property plurality of properties, the method comprising:

~~associating property groups with~~assigning properties of the objects in a data base ~~to first and second property groups~~, each property group ~~associated with an object~~ including at least one property of the object that is different from properties in other property groups;

storing the property groups in the database;

~~for each of a plurality of the~~ objects in the database, specifying ~~which that only the first~~ property groups ~~are is~~ to be used in representing the object; ~~and~~

~~for each of the plurality of objects in the database, storing on a tangible computer storage medium the specification of property groups for use in generating a user interface representing the object.~~retrieving property names and values for each property in the first property group; and

displaying the object by displaying the names and values of the properties in the first property group for the object and not the properties in the second property group.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein object inheritance hierarchies exist between some of ~~the~~ a plurality of objects in the database, wherein the step of ~~associating~~assigning properties to first and second property groups with objects further comprises associating property groups with objects such that each property group is unique to a particular object inheritance hierarchy.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of ~~associating~~assigning properties to first and second property groups with objects in the data base further comprises associating property groups with objects in the database such that at least one of the property groups is associated with two objects such that properties of the two objects belong to the property group.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. The method of claim ~~15~~11, wherein the step of displaying ~~the retrieved data~~the object further comprises displaying the names of properties belonging to the ~~at least one~~first property group adjacent the values of those properties.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (New) A computer implemented method of displaying a sales document object using a computer with a processor, comprising:

identifying, with the processor, at least a first property group and a second property group for the sales document object, the first property group including at least customer properties related to a customer and the second property group including at least administrative properties related to administration of the sales document object;

specifying, to a representation engine implemented by the processor, that the sales document object is to be represented on a user interface using a given one of the first and second property groups;

retrieving, with the representation engine, property names and values for properties in the given one of the first and second property groups; and

displaying on the user interface, a representation of the sales document object, the representation having displayed properties including properties in the given one of the first and second property groups and not the properties in the other of the first

| and second property groups.